

**House Resolution**

**No. 22**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member John A. Pérez**

August 5, 2013

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House Resolution No. 22—Relative to the March on Washington 50th anniversary.

1 WHEREAS, The March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom  
2 on August 28, 1963, was one of the largest rallies for human rights  
3 in United States history and called for civil and economic rights  
4 for African Americans; and

5 WHEREAS, The March on Washington included musical  
6 performances by Marian Anderson, Joan Baez, Bob Dylan, and  
7 Mahalia Jackson, and a series of speeches by various civil rights  
8 leaders, including Catholic, Protestant, and Jewish religious leaders,  
9 as well as John Lewis and the only female speaker, Josephine  
10 Baker, who introduced Rosa Parks during her remarks; and

11 WHEREAS, At the March on Washington, Reverend Dr. Martin  
12 Luther King, Jr., standing in front of the Lincoln Memorial,  
13 delivered one of the most famous speeches in American history,  
14 his “I Have a Dream” speech, advocating racial harmony and social  
15 justice; and

16 WHEREAS, The March on Washington was organized by a  
17 group of civil rights, labor, and religious organizations, under the  
18 theme “jobs and freedom,” with an estimated 200,000 to 300,000  
19 people participating; and

20 WHEREAS, The 1963 March on Washington played an  
21 important part in the rapidly expanding civil rights movement, and  
22 it also marked the 100th anniversary of the signing of the  
23 Emancipation Proclamation by President Abraham Lincoln; and

1 WHEREAS, The March on Washington is widely credited with  
2 helping to pave the way for passage of the Civil Rights Act of  
3 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965; and

4 WHEREAS, The March on Washington was planned and  
5 initiated by A. Philip Randolph, the President of the Brotherhood  
6 of Sleeping Car Porters -- the first predominantly black labor union.  
7 He was also President of the Negro American Labor Council and  
8 Vice President of the AFL-CIO; and

9 WHEREAS, In 1957, when schools in the South resisted school  
10 integration following *Brown v. Board of Education*, Randolph  
11 organized a Prayer Pilgrimage with Martin Luther King, Jr., and  
12 in 1958 and 1959, Randolph organized youth marches for  
13 integrated schools in Washington, D.C.; and

14 WHEREAS, Randolph inspired the “Freedom Budget,”  
15 sometimes called the “Randolph Freedom Budget,” which aimed  
16 to deal with the economic problems facing the African American  
17 community, particularly workers and the unemployed; and

18 WHEREAS, Bayard Rustin was the chief organizer of the March  
19 on Washington and instrumental in organizing its logistics. He  
20 drafted off-duty police officers to be marshals and bus captains to  
21 direct traffic, and scheduled the podium speakers; and

22 WHEREAS, Rustin was an American leader in social  
23 movements for civil rights, nonviolence, and gay rights; and

24 WHEREAS, Rustin became a leading strategist and activist in  
25 the civil rights movement from 1955 to 1968, helping to organize  
26 the Southern Christian Leadership Conference to strengthen Martin  
27 Luther King, Jr.’s leadership and promote the philosophy and  
28 practice of nonviolent resistance, which he had observed while  
29 working with Gandhi’s movement in India; and

30 WHEREAS, Despite the shunning of Rustin by some civil rights  
31 leaders, when the moment came for the unprecedented March on  
32 Washington, Randolph pushed Rustin forward as the logical choice  
33 to organize it; and

34 WHEREAS, Commemorating the 1963 March on Washington  
35 affirms our nation’s and our state’s commitment to achieving the  
36 social and economic justice sought by the marchers and their vision  
37 of social equality, opportunity, and racial harmony embodied in  
38 the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s captivating “I Have A  
39 Dream” speech; and

1 WHEREAS, In his remarks, the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther  
2 King, Jr. exhorted, “Let freedom ring” across the nation and  
3 concluded with, “And when this happens, when we allow freedom  
4 to ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet,  
5 from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that  
6 day when all of God’s children, black men and white men, Jews  
7 and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands  
8 and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual, ‘Free at last! Free  
9 at last! Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!’”; now, therefore,  
10 be it

11 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California*, That  
12 Wednesday, August 28, 2013, be observed as the official memorial  
13 of the 50th anniversary of the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs  
14 and Freedom; and be it further

15 *Resolved*, That the sacrifices made by the leaders and  
16 participants of the March on Washington 50 years ago are  
17 recognized and honored for their role in the advancement of civil  
18 rights and social justice in the United States; and be it further

19 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies  
20 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.